

DANIEL G. SWANSON, SBN 116556
dswanson@gibsondunn.com
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
333 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: 213.229.7000
Facsimile: 213.229.7520

CYNTHIA E. RICHMAN (D.C. Bar No.
492089; *pro hac vice*)
crichman@gibsondunn.com
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202.955.8500
Facsimile: 202.467.0539

JULIAN W. KLEINBRODT, SBN 302085
jkleinbrodt@gibsondunn.com
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: 415.393.8200
Facsimile: 415.393.8306

MARK A. PERRY, SBN 212532
mark.perry@weil.com
JOSHUA M. WESNESKI (D.C. Bar No.
1500231; *pro hac vice*)
joshua.wesneski@weil.com
WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
2001 M Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202.682.7000
Facsimile: 202.857.0940

MORGAN D. MACBRIDE, SBN 301248
morgan.macbride@weil.com
WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
Redwood Shores Pkwy, 4th Floor
Redwood Shores, CA 94065
Telephone: 650.802.3044
Facsimile: 650.802.3100

Attorneys for Defendant APPLE INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

EPIC GAMES, INC.

Plaintiff, Counter-defendant
v.

APPLE INC.,

Defendant, Counterclaimant

Case No. 4:20-cv-05640-YGR-TSH

**APPLE INC.'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT
OF ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO SEAL**

The Honorable Thomas S. Hixson

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and Local Rule 79-5, Apple Inc. (“Apple”) submits this statement in support of Epic Games, Inc.’s Administrative Motion to Consider Whether Another Party’s Material Should Be Sealed Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5 (Dkt. 1192) (“Epic’s Motion”). Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal portions of the privilege log entries submitted as Exhibit A to Epic’s Motion. This exhibit contains information sealable under controlling law and Local Rule 79-5. Specifically, Exhibit A contains excerpts from Apple’s privilege log prepared for the Special Masters conducting evaluation of the privilege claims stemming from Apple’s re-review. The privilege log is required to be filed under the terms of the Protocol, but contains competitively sensitive, non-public information regarding Apple’s project codenames and the engagement of outside legal counsel and consultants in connection with foreign regulatory issues in the European Union. It also contains personally identifiable information in the form of email addresses of Apple employees. Apple’s proposed redactions of Exhibit A are indicated in the redacted version of Exhibit A filed with this statement and itemized in the concurrently filed Declaration of Mark A. Perry (the “Perry Declaration”).

LEGAL STANDARD

“The court may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense,” including preventing the disclosure of information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). The Court has “broad latitude” “to prevent disclosure of materials for many types of information, including, *but not limited to*, trade secrets or other confidential research, development, or confidential information.” *Phillips v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1211 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original); *see also Kamakana v. City and Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (compelling circumstances exist to seal potential release of trade secrets) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)); *PQ Labs, Inc. v. Qi*, 2014 WL 4617216, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 15, 2014) (granting multiple motions to seal where publication would lead to the disclosure of trade secrets); *Apple Inc. v. Rivos, Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 21, 2024) (granting request to seal “internal product codenames” and noting that a prior request for the same had also been granted). Courts often find good cause exists to seal personally identifiable information. *See, e.g., Snapkeys, Ltd. v. Google LLC*, 2021 WL1951250, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 14, 2021) (granting motion to file under seal personally identifiable information, including email addresses and telephone numbers

1 of current and former employees).

2 Although a party must show compelling circumstances to seal information appended to
3 dispositive motions, the standard for non-dispositive motions is simply “good cause.” *In re Anthem, Inc.*
4 *Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2018); *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP v.*
5 *Innovacon, Inc.*, 2018 WL 1001097, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2018); *see DNA Genotek Inc. v. Spectrum*
6 *Sols., L.L.C.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (S.D. Cal. May 10, 2023). In general, requests to seal information
7 should be narrowly tailored “to remove from public view only the material that is protected.” *Ervine v.*
8 *Warden*, 214 F. Supp. 3d 917, 919 (E.D. Cal. 2016); *Vineyard House, LLC v. Constellation Brands U.S.*
9 *Ops., Inc.*, 619 F. Supp. 3d 970, 972 n.2 (N.D. Cal. 2021) (Gonzalez Rogers, J.) (granting a motion to
10 seal “because the request is narrowly tailored and only includes confidential information”).

11 DISCUSSION

12 Apple seeks to seal the personally identifiable information and the sensitive business information
13 regarding project codenames and Apple’s engagement of certain outside counsel and consultants in
14 Exhibit A. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 5.

15 Apple’s administrative motion to seal is subject to the “good cause” standard because it concerns
16 non-dispositive objections related to discovery. *See, e.g., Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (“[T]he public
17 has less of a need for access to court records attached only to non-dispositive motions because those
18 documents are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action.”); *Lee v.*
19 *Great Am. Life Ins. Co.*, 2023 WL 8126850, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2023) (“Matters concerning
20 discovery generally are considered nondispositive of the litigation” (quotation omitted)); *see also In re*
21 *Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2; *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP*, 2018
22 WL1001097, at *1; *Al Otro Lado, Inc. v. Wolf*, 2020 WL 5422784, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2020).

23 Apple’s sealing request meets the good cause standard here. *Lamartina v. VMware, Inc.*, 2024
24 WL 3049450, at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2024) (good cause to seal internal email communications). Apple
25 operates in an intensely competitive environment, and thus has taken extensive measures to protect the
26 confidentiality of its information. *See* Perry Decl. ¶ 3. Disclosure of the sealed information in Exhibit
27 A relating to the confidential engagement of outside counsel and consultants and confidential project
28 codenames could harm Apple’s business interests. *Id.* ¶ 5; *see also DNA Genotek Inc.*, 2023 WL

4335734, at *2 (finding good cause where disclosure would “undercut” a party’s “position ... in the marketplace”). Additionally, courts in this district have found not only good cause, but compelling reasons exist to seal personally identifiable information. *See Snapkeys*, 2021 WL 1951250, at *3 (granting motion to file under seal personally identifiable information, including email addresses and telephone numbers of current and former employees); *see also UnifySCC v. Cody*, 2023 WL 7170265, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2023) (finding compelling reasons to seal personally identifying information of employees, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses).

Apple has narrowly tailored its sealing request to include only the information necessary to protect its confidential business information and personally identifiable information. *See Krommenhock v. Post Foods, LLC*, 2020 WL 2322993, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2020) (granting motion to seal “limited” information); *see also Phillips*, 307 F.3d at 1211; *Williams v. Apple Inc.*, 2021 WL 2476916, at *2–3 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2021) (noting Apple’s narrowed sealing requests with “tailored redactions”); Dkt. No. 643 at 3 (finding Apple’s proposed redactions appropriate for an exhibit when redactions were “narrowly tailored” to “sensitive and confidential information”). Apple has only partially redacted limited information in Exhibit A. *See Perry Decl.* ¶ 5.

For the foregoing reasons, there is good cause that warrants partially sealing the exhibit to Epic’s Motion.

CONCLUSION

Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal the information identified in the accompanying declaration.

Dated: February 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

By: Mark A. Perry

Mark A. Perry

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP

Attorney for Apple Inc.